

REMARKS

Claims 4-6 and 10-19 are all the claims pending in the application. Claim 4 is amended herein to recite that R^2 in formula (i) is a linking group having a chain structure wherein the chain structure does not include a cyclic structure. The amendment is supported, for example, in the paragraph bridging pages 51-52. No new matter is presented.

Claims 4-6, and 10-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Nakamura et al (EP 1 223 196 A2) in view of Oshima (EP 1 176 467 A1).

Applicants respectfully submit that in the binder polymer used in the present invention, R^2 in formula (i) has a chain structure wherein the chain structure does not include a cyclic structure. However, neither of Nakamura et al nor Oshima et al teaches a binder polymer within the scope of the present claims. In the binder polymer of Oshima (JP 2002-040652), R^2 in formula (i) has a cyclic structure (claim 1 and Abstract). Since neither of Nakamura et al and Oshima teach a binder polymer wherein R^2 in formula (i) has a chain structure as defined in the present claims, the present invention is not rendered obvious.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the §103 rejection.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
Application No.: 10/781,645

Attorney Docket No.: Q79923

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

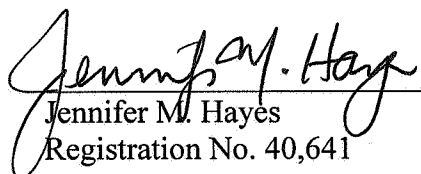
Respectfully submitted,

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